STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A protection device (10) for protecting a brake disk (12) in a disk brake from dirt particles, said protection device comprising:

at least one protection means (13) for effectively preventing dirt particles and relative wind from directly striking a brake disk (12) associated therewith when said protection means (13) is disposed in a first end position and for allowing relative wind to directly strike said brake disk (12) associated therewith when disposed in a second end position;

said at least one protection means (13)~~configured to~~ for partly ~~surround~~ surrounding said brake disk (12)~~ of a disk brake~~ when installed therewith and ~~; said at least one protection means (13) being adapted to be mounted~~ mountable on a vehicle's wheel suspension (11), said at least one protection means (13)~~ and is~~ being at least partly constructed from material that is shape-influenced by heat such that~~; and~~ said at least one protection means (13) assumes said ~~(13) having a~~ first end position ~~that effectively prevents dirt particles and relative wind from directly striking an associated brake disk and a second end position which allows relative wind to strike the associated brake disk (12) directly so as to obtain cooling of the associated brake disk (12), the first end position being assumed~~ when a temperature of ~~the~~ said protection means (13) lies below a first temperature and assumes said ~~the~~ second end position ~~occurs~~ when ~~the temperature of the~~ said protection means (13) exceeds a second temperature.

2. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein the shape of said protection means (13) changes ~~shape~~ continuously from said ~~the~~ first end position to said ~~the~~ second end position.

3. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein the shape of said protection means (13) changes ~~shape~~ stepwise from said ~~the~~ first end position to said ~~the~~ second end position.

4. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection device is ~~configured to be~~ fixedly disposed ~~located~~ relative to a brake caliper of said ~~the~~ disk brake.

5. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein the shape of said protection means (13) is ~~configured to react~~ reactive to heat radiation from said ~~the~~ brake disk (12).

6. (Original) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection means (13) further comprises a plurality of radial tongues having ~~a~~ radially inner ends connectable to said ~~the~~ wheel suspension (11) of a vehicle.

7. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection means (13) is rotatable about a longitudinal axis thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection means (13) further comprises a plurality of peripherally movable tongues disposed ~~located~~ along an outer edge of said ~~the~~ protection device.

9. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection means (13) includes an opening (14) that assumes the form of a sector-shaped arc portion when said ~~the~~ protection means (13) is disposed in said ~~the~~ second end position.

10. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection means (13) is L-shaped.

11. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 10, wherein said material that is shape-influenced by heat ~~the heat-influencable material~~ is disposed ~~located~~ in an angle between two legs (13a, 13b) of said ~~the~~ L-shaped protection means (13).

12. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said material that is shape-influenced by heat ~~the heat-influencable material~~ is disposed ~~located~~ at a radially inner end of said ~~the~~ protection means (13).

13. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection means (13) is comprised, at least partially, ~~by~~ of a bimetal.

14. (Currently Amended) The protection device as recited in claim 1, wherein said ~~the~~ protection device is configured to be disposed ~~located~~ sufficiently close to said ~~a~~ brake disk (12) such that ~~the~~ said protection device absorbs and dissipates heat from said ~~the~~ brake disk (12).

15. (Original) A protected vehicular disk brake arrangement shielded from contamination particles, said arrangement comprising:

a contamination shield (13) mounted to a suspension of a carrying vehicle and surrounding an associated brake disk (12), said shield being at least partly constructed from temperature reactive material characterized by being shape-influenced by heat produced by the associated brake disk (12) when performing a braking function and thereby varying an amount of cooling air supplied to the associated brake disk (12) in dependence upon brake temperature; and

said contamination shield (13) having a closed configuration that precludes contamination particulate and cooling air from directly striking the associated brake disk (12) and an open configuration that allows cooling air to directly strike the associated brake disk (12), the closed configuration being assumed when a temperature of the contamination shield (13) lies below a first predetermined temperature and the open configuration being assumed when the temperature of the contamination shield (13) exceeds a second predetermined temperature.

16. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) is adapted to change shape continuously between the open and closed configurations.

17. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) is adapted to change shape stepwisely between the open and closed configurations.

18. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) is fixedly located proximate a brake caliper.

19. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) further comprises a plurality of radially extending tongues.

20. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) further comprises a plurality of peripherally movable tongues.

21. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) is L-shaped.

22. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 21, wherein the temperature reactive material is located in an angle between two legs (13a, 13b) of the L-shaped contamination shield (13).

23. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) is comprised, at least partially, by a bimetal.

24. (Original) The arrangement as recited in claim 15, wherein the contamination shield (13) is located sufficiently close to the associated brake disk (12) to absorb and dissipate heat therefrom.